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The Independent, V. 31, Thursday, December 14, 1905, [Whole Number: 1589]

The Independent

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THE INDEPENDENT

Published Every Thursday.

COLLEGEVILLE, MONTG. CO., PA.

E. S. MOSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1905.

A BRITISH army order advises that, where possible, mules should be used to draw machine guns. "When, however, a mule is not available, any intelligent non-commissioned officer will do instead."

PHILIP C. GARRETT, a noted financier, philanthropist, and civic reformer, died at his home in Philadelphia, Saturday night, at the age of 71. He served as chairman, years ago, of the Committee of One Hundred engaged in leading a movement for a better city government.

LAST Thursday a monument provided by the State was unveiled at Andersonville, Ga., as a memorial to the Pennsylvania soldiers who starved to death in the Andersonville prison, or stockade, during the civil war. Governor Pennypacker was one of the speakers.

THE Commission to the Director of the Board of Health and Charities reported the Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia, to be in a shameful condition—many of the poor and insane to be much in need of decent treatment and nourishing food; and now the public is rightfully demanding the prompt discharge of every employe guilty of graft or other misconduct.

DEATH has saved John H. Mitchell, U. S. Senator from Oregon, from going to the penitentiary for participation in public land frauds. A criminal fate seems to have hovered about him from his early manhood when he abandoned a wife and family in this State and went to Oregon, changed his name, married again and took up politics, and was several times elected to the United States Senate.

THE 12-page industrial edition issued last Saturday in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Pottstown Blade was, in street vernacular, a "cracker-jack." In amplitude of illustration, mechanical perfection, historical sweep, and, as to matters of general public interest, Editor Saylor's "special" is entitled to a full and running over measure of credit. His personal retrospective and introspective generalizations were by no means the least interesting of the many good things contained in the anniversary number of the Blade.

It might be worth while for some editors—academic, graduate, or even post graduate—to occasionally devote a few hours to the careful study of the English language, with particular reference to the shades of meaning associated with many words employed in the expression of thought. Academic editors are sometimes prone to subject excerpted copy to a process of elimination and substitution, if they chance to find a word, or words, employed in any other than a stereotyped or popular form of expression. The editor of the INDEPENDENT takes a peculiar interest in academic editors.

PRESIDENT CASSATT, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has decreed that the custom of issuing passes to public officials and all other persons, except the employees of the Company, will terminate January 1, 1906. This fiat will hardly be received with adorable favor in many quarters. Nevertheless, it is consistent with the Constitution of the State, and its enforcement will swell the funds in the Company's exchequer. The members of the Legislature and the Congress, after they have paid their car-fare, will most naturally feel themselves to be under less obligations to the Pennsylvania Railroad than heretofore. And this consideration may invite more impartial and independent action in determining questions involved in the work of lawmaking.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 23, 1905.—The fifty-ninth Congress is at last in session. It is the Congress that was elected from thirteen to eighteen months ago. Neither the world nor the United States have stood pat since this Congress was elected. "The times change, and we change with them," but this Congress was elected on promises, pledges and platforms that are now at least in a measure, old, but assuming that it is measurably up to date, the legislations which this Congress was elected to pass has been compelled to wait more than thirteen months for its initiation. Yesterday across the seas in the country from which our language, laws and institutions have been in part derived, the Government under Mr. Balfour resigned and in less than a week a new Government under Sir Campbell Bannerman will be formed and in operation. There is no doubt but that a Government by cabinet as in England and France, has great advantages in nobility and adaptability over a Government like ours.

Those who have followed during the long summer and Fall the unusually voluminous discussions relating to proposed railroad rate legislation are surprised now that Congress has assembled to see the question so near apparently to a harmonious conclusion. The President in his message to Congress is to all appearances by no means so rigid and rock bound in his views as his journalistic friends had represented him to be. His message is an indication that he will accept with thanks any bill that may approximate his views with reference to federal control and the general consensus of Congressional opinion is to the effect that a compromise measure, something between the Esch-Townsend and the Foraker bill will be passed by both houses of Congress at an early day.

Considerable surprise has been expressed at the announcement of

the Pennsylvania Railroad that it will positively and entirely discontinue the issuance of free passes after the January 1906, stating that there will be but one exception of this rule, and that in favor of the President of the United States, basing this exception on the fact that there is no legislative provision for the protection of the President, and that the road, through its management, must regard itself responsible for his personal safety in his progress over its lines, and, to this end, will always provide him with a private car. If all the roads of the country would announce a discontinuance of free pass tips to members of Congress, Judges, clergymen and other dead heads and follow further the example of the Pennsylvania road in the discontinuance of rebates there would of course be no occasion for railroad rate legislation. The President and the Esch-Townsend bill as well as the Senate bills that have been presented, would be defeated in a most unexpected way.

A bill was presented on the first day of Congress appropriating sixteen and a half millions of dollars (\$16,500,000) for the continuance of the work on Panama Canal and it will doubtless be passed by both houses of Congress and receive the signature of the President before the adjournment for the holidays. A few Democrats have been predicting that they will compel the Republicans to go into a detailed investigation and give an itemized account of all expenses at the Isthmus of Panama, but a majority of Congress and even a majority of the Democrats in Congress are opposed to a debate at this time and to investigations that will interfere with the continuance of the work which it is now understood is for the first time fairly under way.

The policy of the President with reference to San Domingo is sure to come up for discussion but probably not before February and until the railroad rate bill has been passed. There is also sure to be a Cuban question. It seems im-

possible for that "ever faithful isle" as the Spaniards were wont to call her, to behave herself. Before receiving her freedom and assuming autonomy at the hands of the United States she was required to make it a part of her constitution that she would not contract any debts without the approval of this Government, or words to that effect. She has nevertheless by various evasions hypothecated her revenues in order to grant pensions to so-called Cuban patriots which by literal interpretation are the ladrones or robbers that have preyed on the industrious planters and land owners of Cuba for thirty years or more, but especially during the time that Weyler was Governor General of the Island. These so-called patriots were utterly inefficient and rendered not the least assistance to the Army and Navy of the United States which brought the civil strife in Cuba to an end and enabled this Government to set up a so-called republic in Cuba. It is of course no more a republic than Mexico where Diaz has reigned for thirty years, the recent election of Palma being like the election of the so-called Mexican President—without opposition.

Senator Beveridge of Indiana is as usual, optimistic with reference to the passage of his statehood bill this session, providing for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as one state and New Mexico and Arizona as another state. The latter combination will make a state that in size will exceed Texas. Oklahoma and Indian Territory have a much larger population than many states that have been admitted to the Union and it is said will be entitled to seven representatives in Congress.

Many new bills have already been presented in Congress. The gross number of bills presented is fully five thousand, but of these not even one in twenty is expected to pass. Among the more important are Pure Food Bills, bills for Parcels Post, a bill for the Free Admission of works of art. It is to be regretted that there is not much hope for the passage of these bills. The tariff on art benefits nobody. It is actually hurtful to the United States. Its effect is to drive thousands of art lovers to Europe in order that they may see and study master-pieces in that country, which if the duty on art were removed could be seen and studied in American art galleries. There are millions of dollars worth of fine paintings owned by Americans but held in Europe on account of the high duty levied on them under the United States tariff laws. This benefits nobody, and the artists of America are among those most desirous of having the duty removed.

With regard to the Parcels Post bill the main objection to it, as stated by Mr. Wannamaker when he was Postmaster General, consists in the five great express companies. The bill would greatly benefit the United States in that it would make the Post Office Department a paying institution like the Patent Office, and it would enable every man, woman and child in the country to wear better shoes, clothes and hats and in fact to have everything purchasable at less cost. The larger stores all over the country are in favor of the bill, but the smaller ones are opposed to it, and the express companies oppose it through their powerful representatives on the floor of the Senate and the little less powerful lobby on the outside.

Torture of a Prescher. The story of the torture of Rev. O. D. Moore, pastor of the Baptist Church, of Harpersville, N. Y., will interest you. He says: "I suffered agonies, because of a paralytic cough, resulting from the grip. I had to sleep sitting up in bed. I tried many remedies, without relief, until I took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, which entirely cured my cough, and saved me from consumption." A grand cure for diseased conditions of Throat and Lungs. At Joseph W. Culbert's, druggist, price 50c. and \$1.00, guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

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